

Timeline

1798
Thomas Neilson (1780-1861) starts a second-hand bookshop at 7 West Bow.

1800s
Neilson begins publishing inexpensive editions and reprints.

1818
Thomas Neilson changes name to Thomas Nelson.

1829
A travelling representative is hired to sell directly to bookshops.

1835
Thomas Nelson's son William (1816-1877) joins the firm.

1839
Thomas Nelson's son Thomas II (1822-1892) joins the firm. Firm moves to larger premises at Blyth's Close, Castle Hill.

1844
London Office opens at 35 Paternoster Row.

1845
New premises open at Hope Park Terrace.

1850
Thomas Nelson II invents the rotary printing press.

1854
Thomas Nelson becomes the largest printing and publishing house in Scotland. Nelson expands overseas, opening a U.S. office at 42 Bleecker Street, New York.

1858
Firm changes name to Thomas Nelson and Sons.

1861
Thomas Nelson dies 23 March 1861.

1870/1872
To coincide with the passing of the Education Acts in England and Scotland, Nelsons launches educational series of textbooks and readers which becomes a major part of the firm's business.

1878
Fire at Hope Park destroys most of the firm's buildings and contents. The firm opens rebuilt premises in Parkside Terrace in 1880.

1885
Nelsons publishes its first Bible, the King James Version. Bible publishing becomes a second major element of the firm's core business.

1887
William Nelson dies 13 September 1887.

1892
Thomas Nelson II dies 20 October 1892. His two sons, Thomas III (1877-1917) and Ian (1878-1958), join the firm soon after. They are assisted in management by their cousin George Brown.

1900
Three new series of pocket books are launched, which soon become world famous: 'New Century Library', 'Nelsons Sixpenny Classics', 'Nelsons Classics'.

1907
Nelson Library of Copyright Fiction launched. The author John Buchan joins the firm as chief literary adviser and director.

1910
Nelsons opens offices in Paris and Leipzig.

1914
Office opens in Toronto. Around this time, trading relationships also established with Australia and South Africa.

1917
Thomas Nelson III volunteers for war duty and is killed in combat by a stray shell.

1929
John Buchan resigns position to become Member of Parliament.

1944
London offices at Paternoster Row destroyed by German bombs. Temporary quarters are found until 1954 at 36 Park Street, Mayfair.

1948
Firm celebrates 150th anniversary. Parkside Works visited by King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret.

1949
Ian Nelson's son Ronald becomes a director of the firm. Around this time the Toronto and New York offices become independent companies.

1958
Ian Nelson dies 14 April 1958.

1961
Office opens in Lagos.

1961
Office opens in Nairobi.

1962
Thomas Nelson and Sons bought by the Thomson Organisation. Editorial sections separated from the printing and binding works at Parkside and moved to Park Street in London.

1966
General office and bound stock warehousing relocated to Sunbury-on-Thames.

1968
Printing and binding works and interests sold to Morrison & Gibb. Parkside Works and recreational grounds vacated and sold for redevelopment.

1800

1789
Outbreak of French Revolution. Storming of the Bastille 14 July 1789.

1798
Wolfe Tone leads Irish revolt against English Rule.

1800s
Industrial Revolution brings about technological and social changes in Britain. Napoleon becomes Emperor of France (1804). Nelson emerges hero of the Battle of Trafalgar against French forces (1805). Battle of Waterloo, final defeat of Napoleon (1815).

1818
Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* published.

1831
Michael Faraday develops the electric dynamo. Introduction of the electric motor.

1832
Great Reform Bill passed giving more men the vote in Britain.

1840
Penny postage stamp introduced in Britain, transforming postal system.

1844
Introduction of the telegraph.

1848
Publication of Marx and Engel's *Communist Manifesto*.

1851
Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace, London.

1853-1856
Crimean War fought between Russia, Turkey, Britain, France and Sardinia.

1859
Darwin's *On the Origins of Species by Means of Natural Selection* published.

1870
Franco-Prussian War. Education Acts passed in England (1870) and Scotland (1872), guaranteeing provision of national elementary education for all.

1885
Launch of the first motor car by German manufacturer Karl Benz. Louis Pasteur develops a vaccine against rabies.

1895
The French Lumière brothers invent the film projector. Marconi invents wireless telegraphy.

1900

1899-1900
Boxer Rebellion in China.

1901
Queen Victoria dies and is succeeded by King Edward VII.

1903
Wilbur and Orville Wright fly the first airplane.

1905
Albert Einstein publishes first Theory of Relativity.

1909
Louise Blériot first to fly across the English Channel.

1914-1918
First World War.

1926
General Strike.

1928
Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin.

1936-39
Civil War in Spain.

1939-1945
Second World War.

1945
Establishment of the United Nations.

1948
Mahatma Gandhi assassinated. Berlin airlift.

1949
Britain recognises the independence of Ireland.

1950

1953
Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

1957
Treaty of Rome establishes the European Common Market. Sputnik, world's first orbiting satellite, launched by the Soviet Union.

1961
Berlin Wall erected.

1962
Cuban Missile crisis involving U.S.A., Cuba and the Soviet Union.

1966
Winston Churchill dies.

1968

1968
Czechoslovakia invaded by the Soviet Union. Student demonstrations in Paris, New York, San Francisco, London.

